

What Was Going On at Walter Russell's Place?

By Richard Leviton ©2005

Probably the most general statement I can make about Walter Russell's estate is that it is the place of the swan. It's reported that he heard the word *Swannanoa* one night in a dream, or perhaps during a daytime waking vision. It's not exactly an established word, but its connotations suggest "near the swan."

The second most general note to make is that Walter Russell's place over near Waynesboro on Afton Mountain has something key to do with the Christ. His wife, Lao (1904-1988) reportedly had a vision of this place when she and Walter (1871-1963) were driving around the U.S. searching for a suitable location to re-establish themselves and found what would become the University of Science and Philosophy based on Walter's unique and incisive mystical-scientific insights into the nature of reality and the primacy of wave forms.

The story goes that Lao beheld a vision of the Christ on a mountaintop, and that high peak was Afton Mountain. She understandably took that as a propitious sign to settle here. In 1949 they acquired the use of the estate (it was then owned by a Richmond businessman) for their personal and

professional use. The University flourished there until 1997, and still does, though without the use of this grand marble palace of a building and cascading gardens which, as most people in the area are aware today, sadly has fallen into neglect over the years.

Walter Russell was a visionary, sculptor, scientist, painter, iconoclast, counsel to the rich and politically influential, teacher of numerous spiritual seekers. One of the highlights of his life, as he recounted it, was a kind of sustained spiritual insight or colloquy with God that took him 39 days to process. We won't ever know all the particulars of this heightened mystical immersion, but we might wonder what kind of living environment he established himself in.

What I mean is that a man of that caliber of revelation no doubt would live and work in a location that in large measure reflected this level of spirituality. What kind of place would do that? A holy place, a numinous landscape, a geomantically enriched site that inspires visions and connects one to the cosmos. And, for the Russells, it would have something to do with a swan and the Christ.

Let's start with the swan. Inscribed on the upper front of the white marbled building are two swans and two horses. Esoterically, the swan pertains to pure, ultimate

consciousness or omniscience. You get a sense of this in the Hindu description of a celestial realm called Vaikuntha where all objects are made of a sentient substance called *cintamani*, the consciousness gem. The sages would travel to Vaikuntha on magnificent swan-shaped ships; these were flying structures made of *cintamani* that moved by the power of pure consciousness.

As for the horse, also in Hindu lore, the horse was equated with Vishnu, the Indian perception of the Christ or Logos as a divine awareness that permeated and pervaded all space, linking, informing, and understanding all the stars. They had a grand spiritual event called the Asvamedha, the Horse sacrifice; it took a year and had many of the themes and practices of Communion or the Eucharist.

So the swan and horse images alert us to something spiritually acute here. Let me briefly sketch a picture, based on clairvoyant viewing, of what kinds of numinous or geomantic features the Russells lived amongst at Swannanoa. Admittedly, it's a wild image, like something from a lucid dream perhaps.

Arcing over Afton Mountain as a half-sphere is an etheric canopy of light about 2.7 miles in diameter and half that in height. Geomantically, this is a feature I call a dome, and it holographically presents the reality of a

single star. This star is part of the Cygnus constellation, Cygnus being the celestial Swan.

Numerous hollow tubes radiate out from this dome to neighboring sites within about a 16-mile radius. Many of these sites have smaller etheric canopies called dome caps. Through one of these you can see the Light body (or aura) of an as yet undiscovered planet in our solar system, through others, you can see stars. Standing guard over these tubes as they leave the dome are numerous angels.

Starting at the trellised gardens and including the house and the broad green lawn in front of it is a geomantic feature I call a Three-Star Temple. At each of these locations burns a bright focus of light, a star, perhaps 50-100 feet across. This is an interactive feature, meant to attune people to three fundamental aspects of their spiritual constitution (represented as stars): at the trellises is the star for our highest Light, at the opposite end, our star for the Earth and Nature, and in the middle, the star for our humanity, with an archangel towering over it. It's a hologram of the archangel, who stands maybe 100 feet tall, right in the house.

Russell's home is situated directly under the top center of the dome. It's like having your living room under a 10,000 watt light bulb permanently on. Underneath the

house, but in vertical alignment with the dome top center, is a huge quartz crystal measuring just under five cubic feet or roughly two feet across. It's not a crystal in our physical realm, but in the next dimension or layer of reality. This crystal has grown, slowly, steadily, from the original seed "planted" by the dome many thousands of years ago when it was installed. It emits light; in fact, it is a brilliant, unremitting source of light and sends a light pillar up to join the inside top center of the dome, 1.35 miles above Afton.

Underlying all of this is a gorgeous white lily with at least six main petals. It's a lily of light of course, larger than the mountain, and in this dreamlike realm it appears full of water, or Light, with numerous serene swans gliding across it.

Underneath this, and well into the Earth, sits a group of humans, or perhaps human spirits, in a circle inside a golden yellow rotunda. They focus on a chalice set on a pedestal before them, either using it to collect energy from events topside or transmitting energy into and through it to the topside features. Native Americans call such a place where people seemingly live inside hollowed-out areas inside the Earth a *sipapuni*, an emergence place, and though the

actual tunnel and physical "door" is now buried and forgotten, it's still there.

All of Afton Mountain, in this numinous visionary realm, appears to be transparent, as if made of, or transformed into, clear quartz crystal-like a glass mountain as well-known from myth and fairy-tales. This glass mountain is unusually shaped: it is like a towering transparent crystal shank or cone encompassing the entire hill and rising into the clouds. Inside it at ground level is a circle of golden crops that, when viewed, expand into golden solar angels.

In the center of all this, essentially where the house stands, is an altar with a carved image or perhaps an astral or Light form of a swan at either end. A man stands before this altar; he looks priestly but not of any particular religion. He is offering a child to the altar. This child is unusual and special, all of gold, enhaloed, emitting light in all directions. The golden angels observe silently. Watching this you sense you are witnessing a Mystery drama, a liturgy of sorts.

I realized it was Walter Russell in his soul form or Light body. He was offering the new Christ energy to Afton Mountain and all its geomantic features at the altar of the swan, that is, of pure consciousness, a swan gliding across

the Lake of Light. And since the geomancy of Afton Mountain is "wired" to many other locales, including Charlottesville, through a dome over Carter's Mountain and affiliate dome caps over Ashlawn, Monticello, and the University, Russell was offering and grounding the pure Christ impulse for this larger interconnected area. In fact, it was my impression the intent was to have people birth the Christ Child within in the Charlottesville area (itself offering two dozen geomantic features) then bring the attainment here to ceremonially present to the swan altar.

In a sense when Lao Russell saw the Christ on the hill she was intuiting their own future, when, at least on a soul level, they would offer the fruits of spiritual development, initiation, and insight, their reborn selves, to the Christ. This profound gesture would remain there as an imprint pointing to the proper use of the estate, in terms of the land's pre-existing geomantic design and rationale, to be a Mystery theater for the birth of the divine child within us.

For ideally, were the property publicly accessible again, we could, if we wished, equally participate in this sublime Christ Mystery by offering our own Christ Child, the reborn Inner Man, as metaphysical traditions say, on the altar.

